

Development of the 2010-2013 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Background

The 2008-2011 TIP was approved in October 2007. The federal and state dollars programmed in the TIP were based upon allocations derived from The Texas Department of Transportation's (TxDOT) 2007 Unified Transportation Program (UTP). Since the approval of the 2008-2011 TIP, TxDOT has been working to develop new funding allocations for each of its districts for the highway funding categories programmed in the TIP.

These new allocations will form the basis for programming decisions for the 2010-2013 TIP. In all likelihood, the funding allocations will be substantially lower in most categories when compared to the allocations shown in the 2008-2011 TIP. The reductions are largely due to federal highway funding rescissions, funding shortfalls at the state level, and more realistic assumptions about the availability of toll financing.

Current Situation

Recent conversations between TxDOT and the state's metropolitan planning organizations resulted in a proposed plan to extend the 2010-2011 TIP development cycle. The May 1, 2009 submission deadline for the 2010 – 2013 TIP may be extended to September 2009.

The next state legislative session begins in January and ends in May of 2009. Two key issues that legislators will discuss are the approval of additional bond issues for Propositions 12 and 14 and ending diversions from Fund 6 to other agencies. At the federal level, the legislature may pass provide additional funding for infrastructure improvements as part of an economic stimulus package early in the year. Extending the development schedule would allow TxDOT to take advantage of additional funding that may be approved by state and federal legislators.

In the interim, MPOs will work to develop a list of regional priorities based upon project readiness and available funding. Once the funding allocations are established, MPOs will then be a position to quickly determine which projects to include in the 2010 TIP.

Action Requested

For information only.